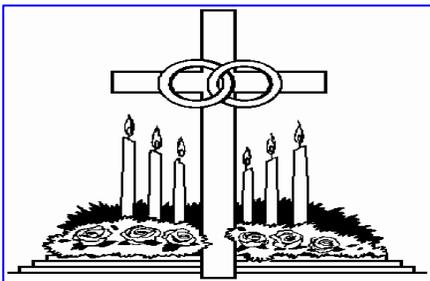


# Ministry of Marriage



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## **THE MINISTRY OF MARRIAGE**

Congratulations!

The good news of a pending marriage is a great thing...it is also a stressful thing! There are lots of plans, details, and preparations.

At Christ Lutheran Church we attempt to put things into perspective by introducing **The Ministry of Marriage**. We are interested in being a Ministry to and for you as you make plans for the day-to come. We hope to be able to reduce the worries by helping attend to the details so that you may look back at these days many years from now with joy-filled thoughts. We want to help you celebrate your marriage.

But as well, we want to introduce you to the understanding that Marriage itself is a life-long Ministry. We are not so much interested in a wedding (which takes one day) but a Marriage (which lasts a lifetime). As such, much of the Marriage preparation time will be preparing a life together as well as preparing the day of a wedding.

Marriage is a mystery. But together, with the help of our gracious God, we will have the opportunity to explore the wonder and goodness of your relationship, and to look to the future, hopeful that what God has begun in you now, will be brought to fullness in the months and years to come!

## **THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE**

All marriage ceremonies, whether they take place in the worship center or in some other location, are first and foremost a worship ceremony. By beginning with this understanding, we might be able to put aside some of the common misrepresentations of weddings, as well as plan for an occasion that expects and anticipates the presence of God.

As you read through the material in this booklet, this "proper perspective" is what lies behind the information and policies.

## **THINGS TO DO IN ADVANCE**

1. Before "setting a date" with family and friends, please contact the church office to get it on the church calendar (this is very important if it is to be at the church!). At that time, a refundable deposit of \$250.00 is requested to "save the date".
2. Simultaneous with #1, ask to speak with the pastor in order to arrange it on his/her calendar. It is the policy of Christ Lutheran Church that an ordained pastor from Christ Lutheran Church must officiate.
3. Arrange with the pastor when the Pre-Marriage Conversations will take place.
4. If Christ Lutheran Church's organist/pianist is to be utilized, speak with the Minister of Music to secure the date on his/her calendar.
5. Apply for Marriage License. It is your responsibility to secure the Marriage License from the County Clerk. Please bring it to the wedding rehearsal; the pastor or wedding coordinator will be happy to hold on to it from that point forward.

## **PRE-MARRIAGE CONVERSATIONS**

Preceding all marriages will be no less than five opportunities to meet with the pastor and a counselor to prepare the Marriage.

The first of these conversations will be held no less than 3 months before the marriage date (preferably four months before) and will consist of preliminary information plus a Couple Inventory. Christ Lutheran Church uses the survey tool, *Prepare*, from Life Innovations. It is a 165-question survey that will assist couples to identify their strengths and areas of growth.

Conversations 2, 3, and 4 largely focus on the work begun in the first conversation. The Christ Lutheran Church parish counselor conducts these sessions.

Conversation 5 normally takes place within two weeks of the marriage date and simply takes care of any unfinished details. It is likely that the Marriage Consultant will join the couple in this fifth Conversation.

Each of these conversations are approximately one and a half hours in length.

## **MARRIAGE PARAMETERS Music**

Music used in the Marriage Ceremony is an important part of the worship service. We encourage couples to help maintain the dignity of the service by helping to choose music appropriate to the

occasion. Music, per se, is neither sacred nor secular; it becomes so by association. Our congregation allows some latitude in the choice of music. Please meet with the Minister of Music no later than 6 weeks prior to the wedding for a single consultation. The Minister of Music is required to approve all music during the Pre-Marriage Conversations.

## **Pre-Service Music, Processional, and Recessional**

The Minister of Music will assist the couple in choosing the best music for the moment. Please see page 10 of this booklet for some possibilities.

## **Soloists and Special Music**

The couple is responsible for choosing soloists and special music, as well as providing them an honorarium. When choosing a soloist, be sure that you know what this person is capable of singing. It is unreasonable to expect the organist/pianist to "coach" a person through a song. We further discourage singing to "taped music." The quality of the music is often times less than satisfactory. Our organist/pianists are quite capable of playing most anything. A hard copy of the music is requested 2 weeks prior to the wedding. Practice will be coordinated with the Minister of Music.

## **Photography and Video**

*Photography is one of the biggest expenses (though perhaps it shouldn't be!) of a wedding. We suggest great care be expended in securing the right photographer. Please ensure that they will conduct themselves professionally and will wear appropriate attire.*

Because of the "worship-nature" of a Marriage Ceremony, we request that **NO** flash photography be done during the service. Furthermore, we request that the photographer remain "hidden" throughout the service, preferably in the back of the worship center.

Whether on or off-site, it is the responsibility of the couple to inform the photographer that he or she must meet with the pastor prior to the service.

It is our strongest encouragement that the custom of the couple not seeing one another before the ceremony *not* be practiced, and that all pictures be taken before the service. Everyone will be fresher, and you will get to the reception quicker (in most cases one hour quicker!)

Video cameras are permitted. As with the photographer, we request that the cameras themselves be "hidden," and that the operators of the cameras not draw attention to themselves.

## **Sound and Projection**

A Christ Lutheran Church Sound technician will be at the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony to ensure quality sound. If the needs of the wedding party go beyond the 2 hour commitment, an hourly fee for the Sound Technician will be subtracted from the \$250.00 deposit after the ceremony. Christ Lutheran will supply a Projectionist if one is needed for either pictures or songs. The Projectionist is needed for the ceremony only, not the rehearsal. We encourage couples to maintain the dignity of the service by choosing photos/background music appropriate to the occasion.

See page 11 for the cost of both Sound and Projection Technicians.

## Florists

It is our encouragement that the cost of flowers is kept to a "reasonable minimum." Silk flowers (not plastic) are permitted. No tape may be used in the sanctuary to attach bows to the chairs (T-pins are recommended). Have the florist contact the church office the week of the wedding to arrange for delivery of flowers. The Marriage Consultant will have final say on where flowers will be placed in the chancel of the worship center. It is not permissible for flower girls to drop petals from the flower basket as she comes down the aisle.

## Candles

Candelabras and Unity Candle are available from the church. The wedding party must provide their own drip-less candles. Center candles for the Unity candle are to be 3-inches in diameter and can be purchased throughout town.

## Rice

The pagan custom of throwing rice (a sign of fertility) is not permitted. For environmental reasons, the throwing of other things (such as confetti or bird seed) is not permitted.

## Rehearsals

*Generally, the night before the Marriage Ceremony there will be a rehearsal. This gives everyone an opportunity to prepare for the coming day's celebration. It is imperative that all the wedding party is present at the rehearsal; we cannot begin until all are assembled. The rehearsal is conducted jointly by the Pastor and Marriage Consultant, and takes approximately one hour. **It is important that the marriage license and payment of fees be presented to the Pastor at the rehearsal.***

## Wedding Bulletins/Brochures

*You may choose to provide your own wedding bulletins. If so, please consult with the Minister of Music regarding the names and spellings of the agreed upon music.*

The church office is happy to help create your wedding bulletin. You may either provide a camera-ready bulletin or provide the information to the church office. In either case, the church office manager must be contacted no later than 2 weeks prior to the wedding.

See page 11 for the cost of the church office to do the bulletin.

## The Wedding Party

The Wedding Party must consist of the wedding couple, maid/matron of honor, and best man, at the very least. Additional bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, flower girls, and ring bearers are permissible. *No flower girl or ring bearer may be under 5 years old.*

## Receptions

Receptions may be held at the church (either the Community Connections Center or the Christian Life Center) for members only.

## **Wedding Consultant**

*A wedding consultant is required for all weddings regardless of size. Christ Lutheran Church supplies the wedding consultant. This is the case whether the wedding is at Christ Lutheran Church or an off-site location. The wedding consultant will be a great help in organizing the wedding party, as well as a resource for most any need that arises.*

## **Alcohol**

It is very important that the consumption of alcohol not impair the wedding. No alcohol may be consumed on the church property before or after the Marriage Ceremony. For weddings on and offsite it is requested that no alcohol consumption take place by anyone in the wedding party prior to the ceremony. Members of the wedding party who are publicly intoxicated prior to the ceremony will not participate in the service.

## **Holy Communion**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a wonderful way to honor the presence of Christ in your Marriage Ceremony. If we do celebrate, Holy Communion becomes available to the whole congregation. The married couple takes the responsibility of being servers. People will come forward on their own. Because of the highly religious nature of this Sacrament, and the theological disagreements across denominational lines, it is best to celebrate only if both bride and groom come from similar religious backgrounds.

Having Holy Communion in an off-site wedding is not permitted.

## **Sanctuary Presentation**

The altar, pulpit, and baptismal font are important statements to our faith and may not be moved for the Marriage Ceremony. Banners that are hung will not be taken down, though it *may* be possible for a special wedding banner to be hung over them. *The worship center may not be rearranged to create a single aisle. The chairs may not be moved.*

## **OFF-SITE WEDDINGS**

***Whenever possible, the pastors of Christ Lutheran Church will oblige the request to perform a wedding ceremony that is not at Christ Lutheran Church (off-site). Having said that, however, it is critically important that the bride and groom understand the religious nature of the wedding ceremony, and abide by the policies contained in this brochure, as well as receive help from the pastor in planning and ensuring that the off-site location will be conducive as a suitable setting.***

***There will be extra costs associated with asking a Christ Lutheran Church pastor to perform an off-site ceremony. Mileage will be paid per IRS Guideline rates per mile (to and from Visalia), and if the wedding location is more than one-hour away, then overnight lodging (for all necessary staff i.e., Pastor, Wedding Consultant, Musicians) will be paid for by the bride and groom.***

## **DELICATE ISSUES**

Couples Living Together Prior to Marriage - It is the intention for the Church to uphold Marriage as the pre-eminent manner in which God intended for two to live together. We are to celebrate Marriages! We do not place conditions on couples that decide to live together prior to Marriage, but we strongly encourage them to speedily prepare for the marriage date. As such, the giving of the bride by the father-of-the-bride will not be observed in the Ceremony.

Individuals Who Have Been Married Previously - Unfortunately the reality of sin and brokenness has crept into our most sacred of relationships — Marriage.

When a Marriage fails many people suffer. But the end of a marriage does not mean the end of a life — often times divorced individuals seek to marry again. While we recognize the grace of a second Marriage, we nonetheless recognize the work required to give this second Marriage the best opportunity for success. The Pastor may require additional Pre-Marriage Conversations.

Generally, for those who have been divorced more than two times, there are deeper issues to explore. The Pastor may require counseling with a trained marriage counselor.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **Part One - Processional**

Prelude Music  
Seating of Grandparents and Parents  
Lighting of Candles/Unity Candle  
(Soloist or Instrumentalist)  
Wedding Party Processional  
(Giving of the Bride)

### **Part Two - The Wedding Worship Service**

The Welcome  
Invocation/Opening Prayer  
Scripture Readings  
(Hymn)  
The Homily/Meditation  
The Vows  
(Parental Blessing)  
The Giving and Blessing of the Rings  
The Marriage Proclamation  
(The Lighting of the Unity Candle)  
(Soloist/Instrumentalist)  
The Marriage Blessing  
Prayers

The Lord's Prayer  
(Sacrament of Holy Communion)  
(Solo/Instrumentalist/Hymn)  
The Benediction  
The Marriage Announcement  
The Kiss

### **Part Three - Recessional**

Recession of the Newly Married  
Recession of Wedding Party in Reverse Form  
Recession of Grandparents/Parents  
Dismissal of Congregation  
Postlude Music

*\* Parenthesis indicates optional*

### **Scripture Sampling**

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
Genesis 1:26-31	Psalms 33	Matthew 19:4-6
Genesis 2:18-24	Psalms 100	John 2:1-10
Ruth 1:16-17	Psalms 117	John 15:9-12
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Psalms 127	Romans 12:1-2
Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalms 128	1 Corinthians 13
	Psalms 136	Ephesians 5:21-33
	Psalms 150	Galatians 5:22-26
		Philippians 4:4-7
		Colossians 3:12-17
		1 John 4:7-12

## VOWS

### A.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faithfulness.

### B.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to understand, till death shall part us, according to the design of God in creation and commit myself completely to you.

### C.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband/wife, to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for our lives together. I will listen to your inmost thoughts, be considerate and helpful in support of you, and stand by you faithfully in sickness and health, and choosing you above all others, pledge my loyalty to you as long as we both shall live.

### D.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife, from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

### E.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife, from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and, with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you as he gives us life together.

### F.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband/wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony. I will love you, comfort you, honor and keep you, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep myself only unto you so long as we both shall live.



# Wedding Music

## **Suggested Music corresponding to “CLC WEDDING CD SAMPLES”**

### **Track No. 1 “Bridal Chorus”**

*This traditional bridal procession by Wagner is the ultimate in traditional weddings. Bold and powerful, yet beautiful this song sounds wonderful on organ, piano or with string quartet.*

### **Track No. 2 “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”**

*Traditional and light, this famous tune can be used to form a seamless entry or departure from the sanctuary. This song can be extended or shortened with out any loss of beauty and splendor.*

### **Track No. 3 “Pachelbel’s Canon in D”**

*This lovely and flowing work is perfect for the seating of the mothers, entrance of the bridal party or even as a bridal procession.*

### **Track No. 4 “Ave Maria” Bach**

*Based on his famous prelude in C this tender work is versatile and magnificent. It would fit well in almost any section of the service. Especially lovely with solo instrument.*

### **Track No. 5 “There is Love” Sebastian**

*For a more folk or contemporary feeling this song has become a wedding favorite.*

### **Track No. 6 “Trumpet Voluntary”**

*Traditional, austere and dramatic. Perfect for processional or recessional*

### **Track No. 7 “Claire De Lune” Debussy**

*This Stunning song is best when played on piano. It is perfect filler music, especially good for pre service gathering. It sets the mood for something really special and lovely.*

### **Track No. 8 “The Wedding March” Mendelssohn**

*This is the ultimate in traditional exit. Stunning on organ with or without trumpet.*

## MARRIAGE/RECEPTION FEE SCHEDULE

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
<b>FACILITIES</b>		
Sanctuary (capacity 250)	No Charge	\$250.00
Reception - Christian Life Center	\$ 25.00/Hour	n/a
Reception – Community Connections Center	\$ 50.00/Hour	n/a
 <b>CUSTODIAL SERVICES</b>		
Sanctuary	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00
Sanctuary & Christian Life Center	\$ 70.00	n/a
Sanctuary & Community Connections Center	\$ 70.00	n/a
 <b>MINISTER'S HONORARIUM</b>		
	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>PRE-MARRIAGE CONVERSATIONS</b>		
	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
	\$ 25.00/Session	\$ 25.00/Session
 <b>ORGANIST</b>		
Wedding & Rehearsal	\$150.00	\$175.00
Soloist	\$ 75.00	\$ 80.00
Praise Team	\$350.00	\$350.00
 <b>SOUND TECHNICIAN (2 hour max)</b>		
	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
<b>PROJECTION (Ceremony only)</b>		
	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00
 <b>WEDDING CONSULTANT</b>		
	\$100.00	\$125.00
 <b>BABYSITTING DURING CEREMONY (per babysitter)</b>		
	\$ 20.00/hour	\$ 20.00/hour
 <b>BULLETINS/BROCHURES</b>		
	\$ 25.00/100	\$ 25.00/100

Please make the checks out to *Christ Lutheran Church* and submit to the Pastor or Wedding Consultant on the night of the rehearsal.

In addition to the above fees, a \$250.00 refundable deposit will be required at the time the wedding date is put on the church calendar. It will be held for unforeseen expenses, and will be returned 3 days after the ceremony.